

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 674

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to commend the Tennessee Education Lottery.

WHEREAS, on election day, November 5, 2002, over 1,000,000 Tennesseans went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly to approve a statewide referendum to permit a lottery with the votes in favor totaling 894,137; and

WHEREAS, during the first regular session of the 103rd General Assembly, legislation was enacted to establish the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation and authorize it to operate games and generate funds for specific education programs in Tennessee to the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2003, Governor Phil Bredesen appointed the original seven-member Board of Directors to govern the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation who were: Dennis C. Bottorff, chair; the late Morris H. Fair; James L.E. Hill; Marvell R. Mitchell, James H. Ripley, Deborah E. Story, and Claire Whitfield Tucker; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2003, the Corporation hired highly respected lottery professional Rebecca Paul Hargrove as its first President and Chief Executive Officer who quickly established an action plan that saw the first Tennessee lottery ticket sold on January 20, 2004 – three weeks before schedule; and

WHEREAS, first day ticket sales totaled over \$10.8 million and since that time, the Tennessee Education Lottery has exceeded over \$8.4 billion in lottery ticket sales and raised over \$2.2 billion for education programs across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during the 2010-11 academic year, lottery funds helped over 100,000 students enroll at public and private higher education institutions across Tennessee and provided dual enrollment opportunities for over 16,000 high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Education Lottery also provides funding for the Lottery for Education Afterschool Program, which in 2009-10, served over 27,000 students in high quality after school programs in more than 200 locations across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, since 2004, approximately 526,614 students have received financial assistance from the Tennessee Education Lottery, including 369,041 recipients of HOPE Scholarships, General Assembly Merit Scholarships, and ASPIRE awards; 76,824 Wilder-Naifeh Grant recipients; and 69,188 dual enrollment recipients; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 Tennesseans who honorably served in the United States Armed Forces have received assistance from the Tennessee Education Lottery through the Helping Heroes Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Education Lottery has helped approximately 8,000 non-traditional students return to college or begin their college education through the HOPE Non-Traditional Scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2012, Tennessee Lottery players have won more than \$5 billion in prizes and lottery tickets are available for sale at more than 4,800 retailers statewide who have earned nearly \$549 million in commissions since ticket sales began; and

WHEREAS, despite the recent economic downturn, the Tennessee Education Lottery has continued to exceed all performance expectations setting an all-time high transfer of \$293.5 million to education programs in 2011, with even higher results expected this fiscal year as highlighted by February 2012, which produced the highest total sales month in Tennessee Education Lottery history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and applaud the board members, both past and present, of the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation and Tennessee Lottery President and CEO Rebecca Paul Hargrove and her staff for their dedication and hard work in implementing and

operating the extraordinarily successful Tennessee Education Lottery which has produced untold benefits for countless Tennesseans and generations of Tennesseans yet to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation for each board member, both past and present, of the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation and the Executive Staff of the Tennessee Education Lottery with this final clause omitted from such copy.